

Attachment A

Overview of the Child Caseload of the New Jersey Division of Youth and Family Services

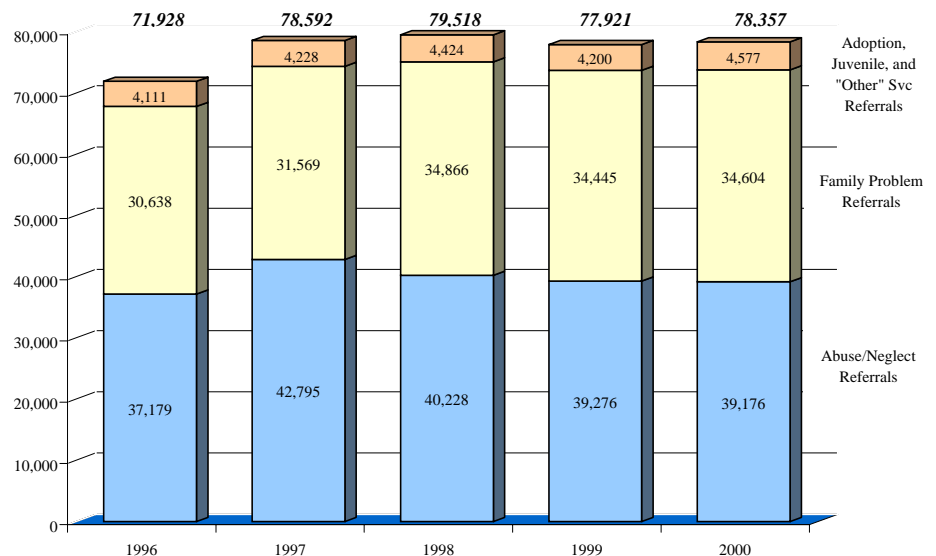


REFERRALS TO DYFS FOR SERVICE

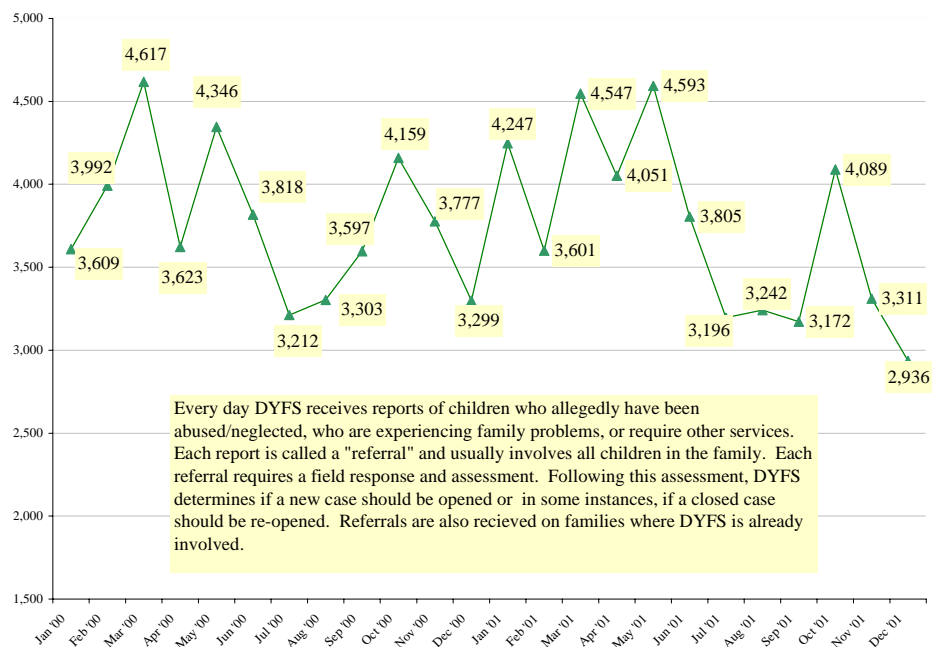
The numbers in the chart represent *children* who were the focus of referrals that the Division screened and determined appropriate for a response by field or other staff. The facts gathered during the screening process help determine whether the allegation involves potential abuse or neglect, or requires some other intervention. In most cases, the street-level investigation carried out by DYFS field staff dictates the level of intervention and array of services that families need.

In addition to these, DYFS responds to thousands of requests each year for information or services that DYFS does not provide, and refers these to the agency or provider best suited to meet their needs.

**Types of Referrals DYFS Received Annually
1996 Through 2000**



**Total Number of Referrals Received Each Month
During Calendar Years 2000 and 2001**

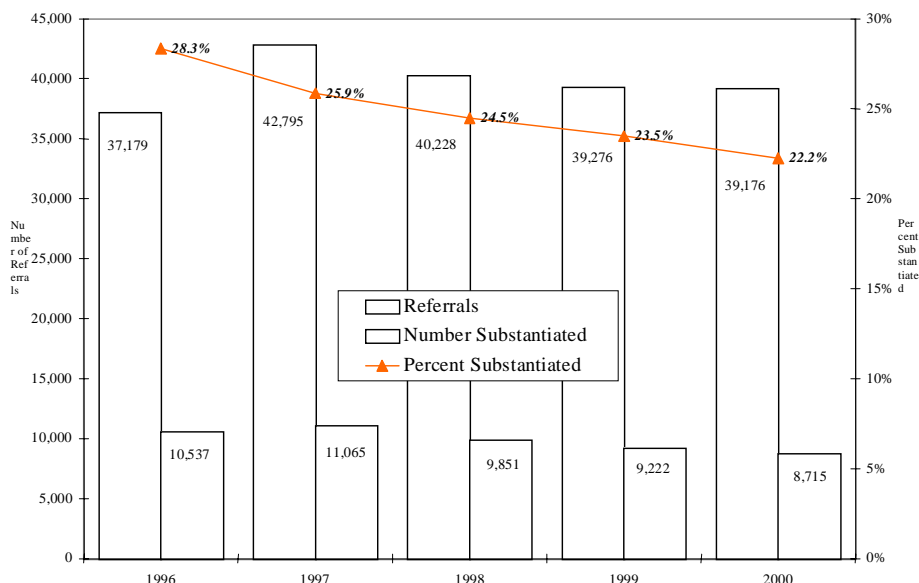


Overview of the Child Caseload of the New Jersey Division of Youth and Family Services



ABUSE AND NEGLECT

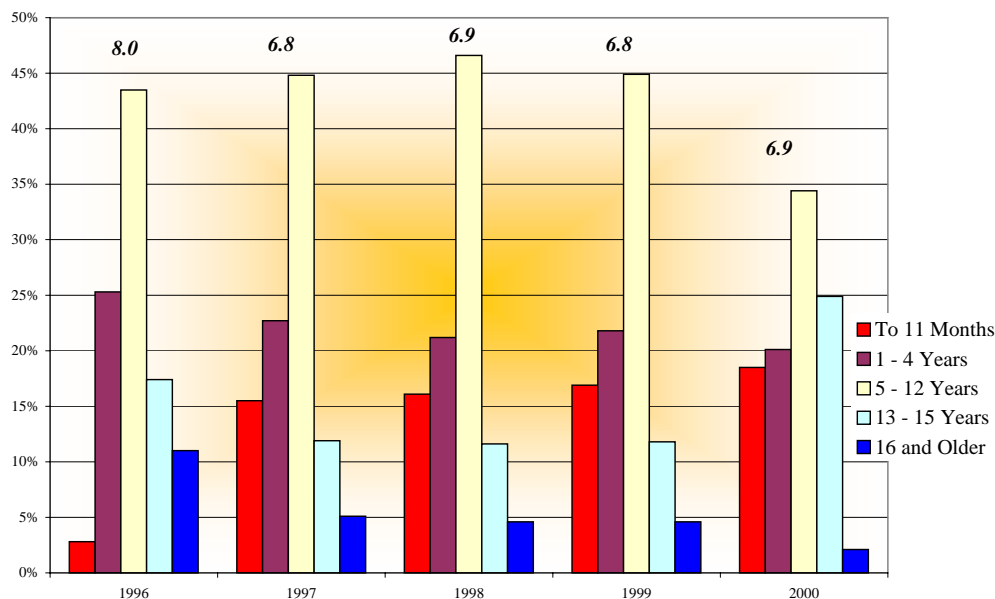
Abuse/Neglect Referrals, Substantiated Cases, and Percent Substantiated Since 1996



Since 1996, the numbers of referrals the Division received for abuse and neglect and the number and percentage of substantiated cases has been declining. The number of maltreated children per thousand also decreased in New Jersey for the fifth consecutive year, from 5.7 in 1996 to 4.2 in 2000. Nationally, the rate per thousand has decreased for six consecutive years, through 1999 (figures for 2000 were not available at this time).

Age Group and Median Age of the Victims of Abuse/Neglect

Although the median age of the victims of maltreatment hasn't changed significantly, especially since 1997, the chart shows for 2000 a change in the percentage mix of children in the 5-12 and 13-15 age groups who are victimized by abuse and neglect. Fewer 5 to 12 year olds but more 13 to 15 year olds were victims during 2000 than in prior years (the total percentage of children in these age groups combined hasn't changed from the total in prior years). Children in the youngest age groups – those to age 4 – are most vulnerable. These children made up almost 39% of all substantiated cases in 2000.

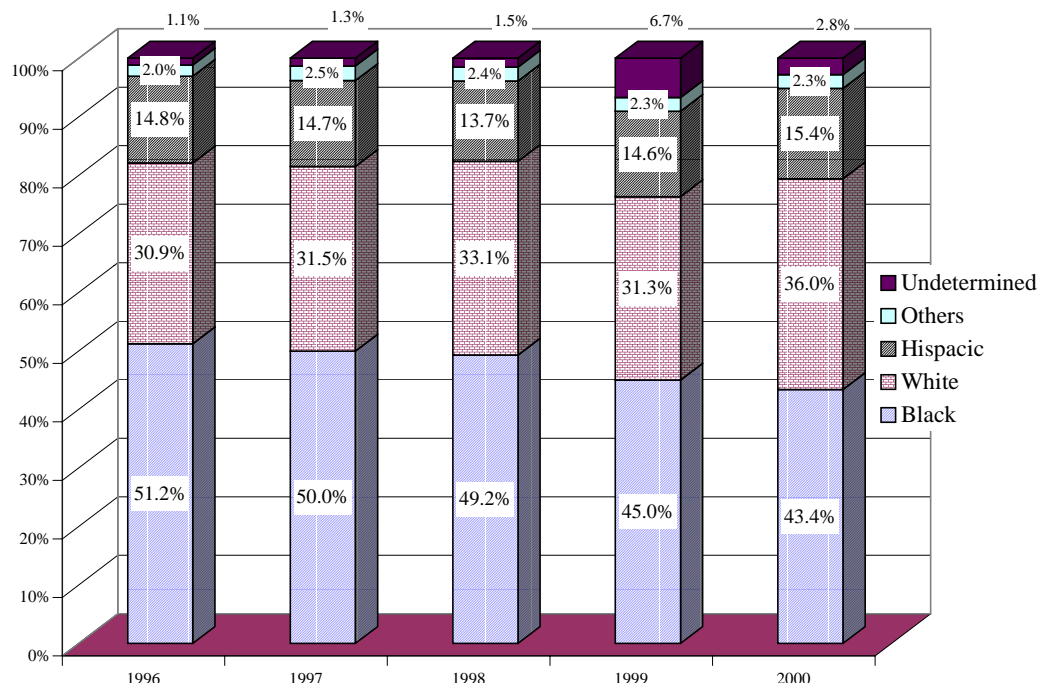




Overview of the Child Caseload of the New Jersey Division of Youth and Family Services

Race of the Victims of Abuse and Neglect

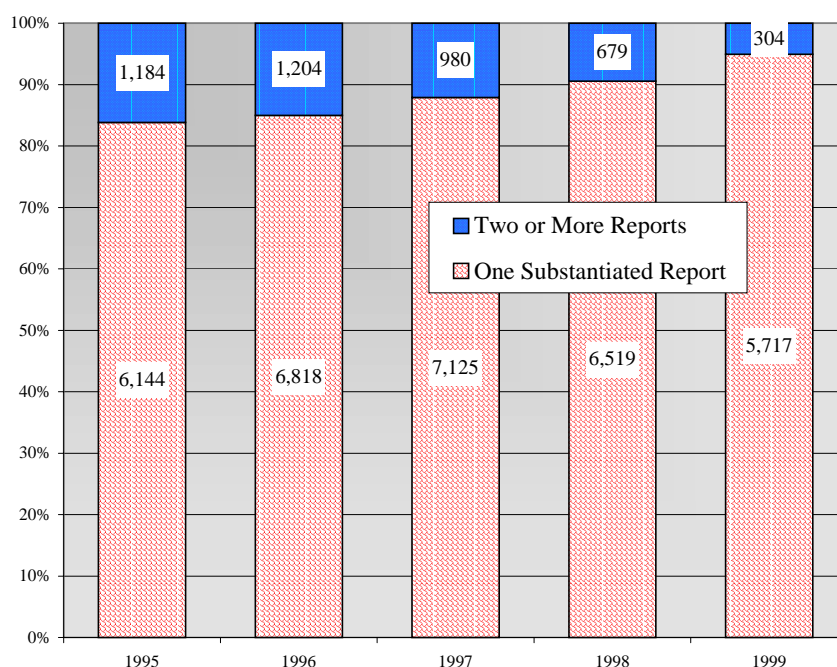
This chart shows a discernable trend in the percentage of abuse and neglect cases that DYFS staff substantiate that involve black children. For the five years depicted here, the percentage of black victims has steadily decreased, from 51.2% of all victims in 1996 to 43.4% in 2000. Note that the percentage of white children and children of Hispanic origin comprised less than 47% of all victims between 1996 and 1999, but more than 51% in 2000. It remains to be seen whether this pattern is unusual or the beginning of a trend.



During 2000, the Division began exploring a new method of data analysis with the Chapin Hall Center for Children of the University of Chicago. This method, pioneered by the Center, focuses on groups of children called “cohorts” that experience similar events (e.g., abuse/neglect) at the same time (e.g., during the same calendar year). It follows these children through their “careers” and so allows for more meaningful annual comparisons of data, and understand the impact of programs and policies on these children. Several of the charts that follow provide a first look at preliminary results of this analysis.

**Children With First Substantiated Report Between 1995 and 1999
Children With One or More Reports**

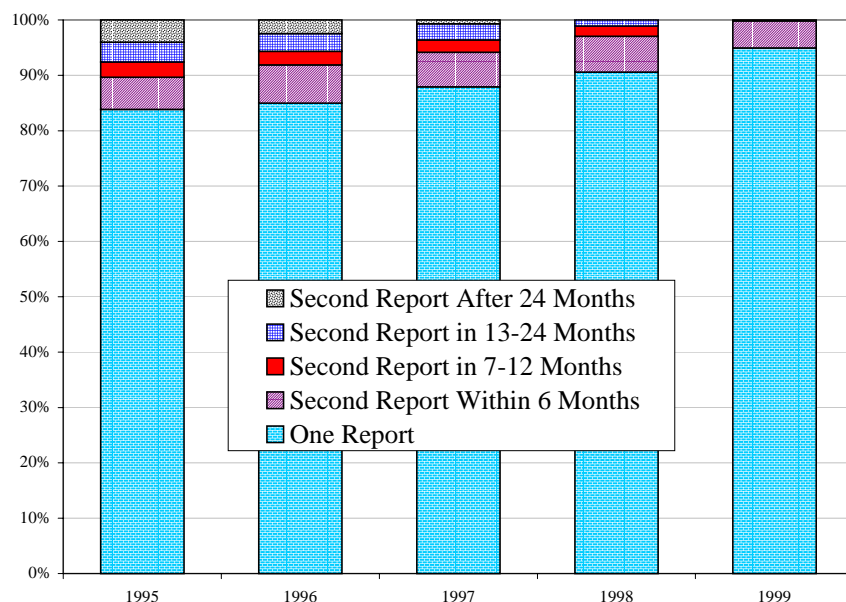
Using data available for the 1995 through 1999, it appears that fewer (and a smaller percentage) of children are experiencing two or more substantiated maltreatment incidents (note that the data are less reliable for the later years since the “careers” for some of these children may not yet have ended. It is likely, however, that the data through 1997 are reliable).





Overview of the Child Caseload of the New Jersey Division of Youth and Family Services

Months Between First and Second Abuse/Neglect Reports



Few children experience a second substantiated abuse/neglect incident - about 16% in 1995 and 15% in 1996 (again, data for later years may be incomplete). Among children who experience a second substantiated incident, many occur within six months of the first substantiated incident, and the majority seems to occur within one year of the first incident.

	Report Year:				
	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
One Report	6,144	6,818	7,125	6,519	5,717
Second Report Within 6 Months	427	554	505	466	292
Second Report in 7-12 Months	200	195	181	133	12
Second Report in 13-24 Months	263	259	239	80	-
Second Report After 24 Months	294	196	55	-	-
Total	7,328	8,022	8,105	7,198	6,021
One Report	83.8%	85.0%	87.9%	90.6%	95.0%
Second Report Within 6 Months	5.8%	6.9%	6.2%	6.5%	4.8%
Second Report in 7-12 Months	2.7%	2.4%	2.2%	1.8%	0.2%
Second Report in 13-24 Months	3.6%	3.2%	2.9%	1.1%	0.0%
Second Report After 24 Months	4.0%	2.4%	0.7%	0.0%	0.0%

Note for shaded area in the table above: sufficient time has not yet elapsed to determine final figures.

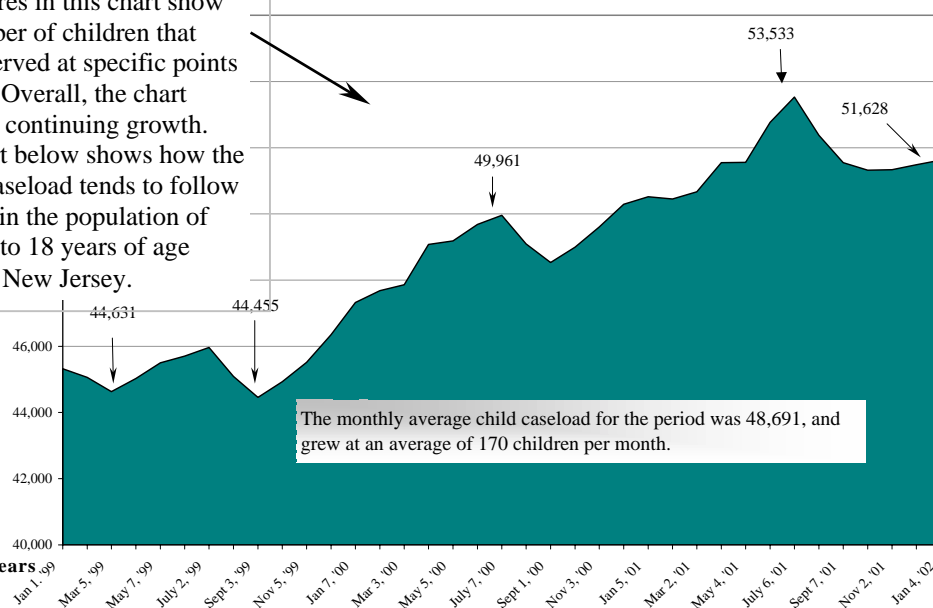


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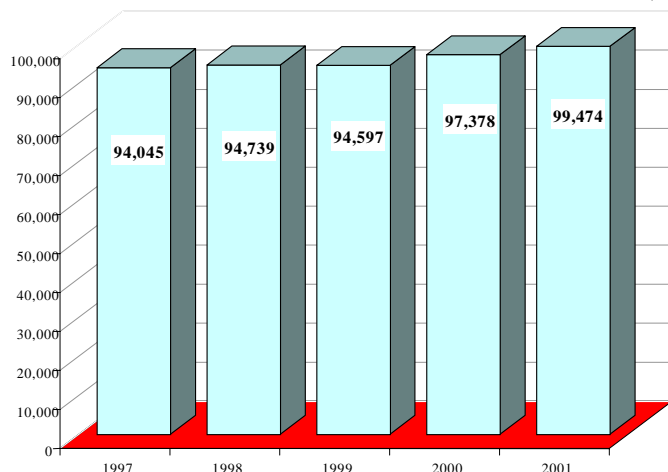
CHILD CASELOAD

Growth in the DYFS Child Caseload
-- January 1, 1999 Through January 4, 2002--

The figures in this chart show the number of children that DYFS served at specific points in time. Overall, the chart points to continuing growth. The chart below shows how the DYFS caseload tends to follow changes in the population of children to 18 years of age living in New Jersey.

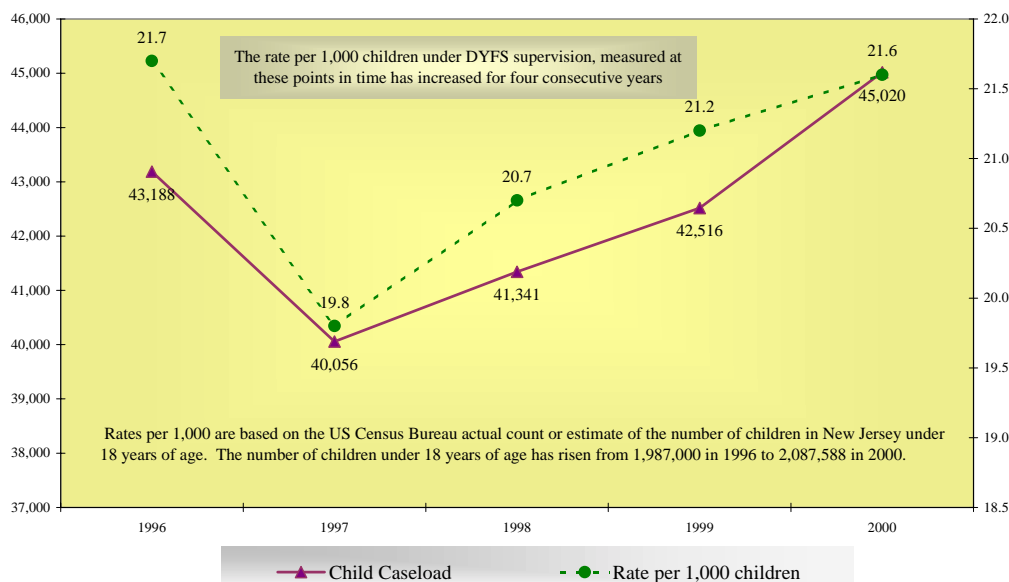


**Total Number of Children Who Received
Case Management Services During Calendar Years
1997 Through 2001**



The number of children that DYFS serves during the course of a year grew in both 2000 and 2001 from the numbers in the prior year. Between 2000 and 2001, the number of children served grew by 2.9%. Of the more than 99,000 children that DYFS served during 2001, more than 54,000 were new cases or closed cases that were reopened. In addition to these cases, DYFS provided monthly subsidy to more than 7,000 families who have adopted children previously under DYFS supervision.

**Children Receiving Case Management Services at the End of the Calendar Year and the
Rate Per 1,000 Children Under 18 Years of Age Residing in New Jersey**

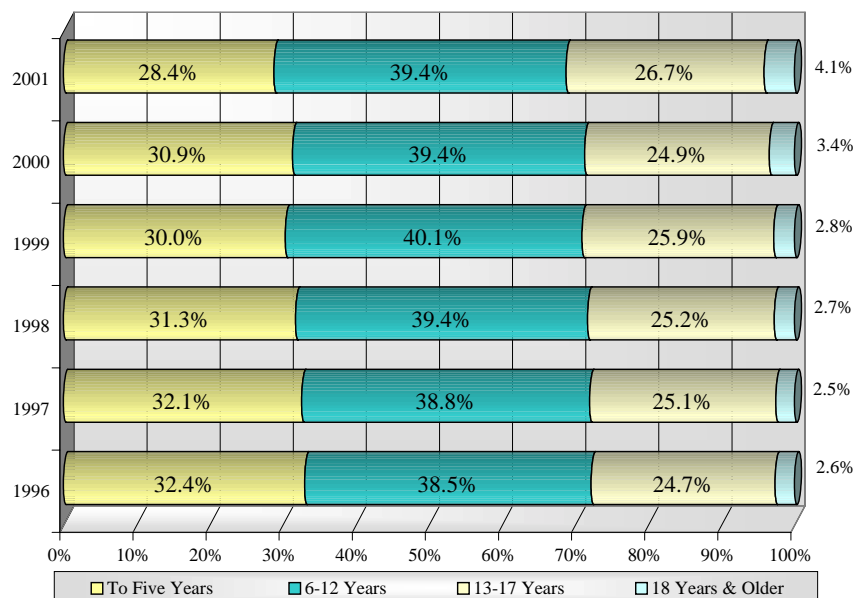




Overview of the Child Caseload of the New Jersey Division of Youth and Family Services

DEMOGRAPHICS OF THE CHILD CASELOAD

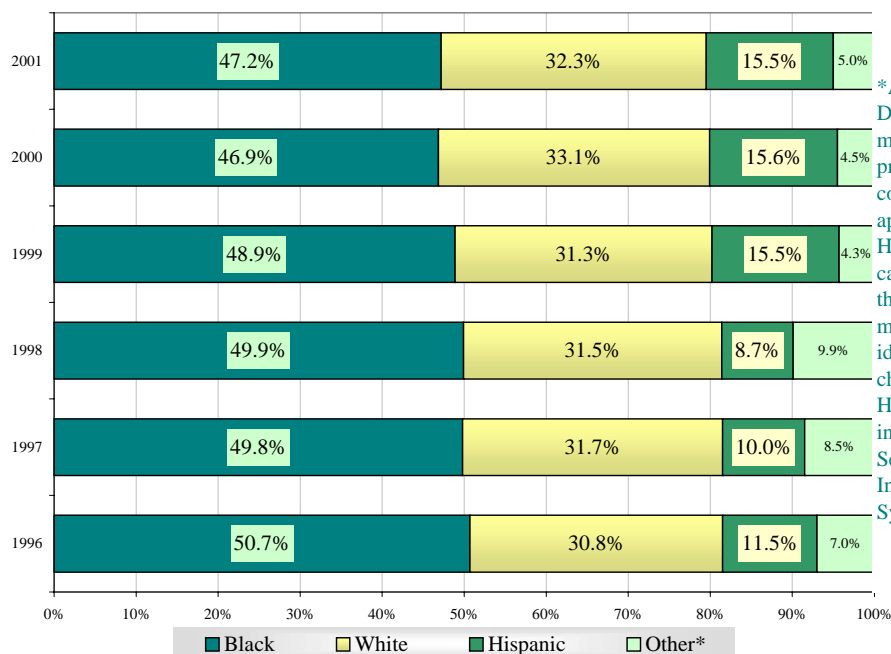
**Age of Children Receiving Case Management Services
at the End of the Calendar Year: 1996 - 2001**



These figures offer a glimpse of the racial/ethnic and age composition of the caseload as it appeared at the end of each year between 1996 and 2001, and only for the children who were receiving services on that day. As a rule, these snapshots of the caseload do not change substantially from one period to the next. Further, since some children are in care on the last day of one year and into the next, they appear in the descriptive statistics for each year that their case is active.

It appears that on the day the snapshot was taken in 2001, the DYFS caseload was a bit older than in the snapshots taken in prior years. The percentage of children 13 and above is larger than in prior years. The change in the racial/ethnic composition of the caseload may be due more to the change in the Division's improved method of identifying children of Hispanic origin rather than to real changes. For each of the comparison years the gender of the caseload has remained consistently at about 48.5% female.

**Race/Ethnicity of Children Receiving Case Management Services
at the End of the Calendar Year: 1996 - 2001**



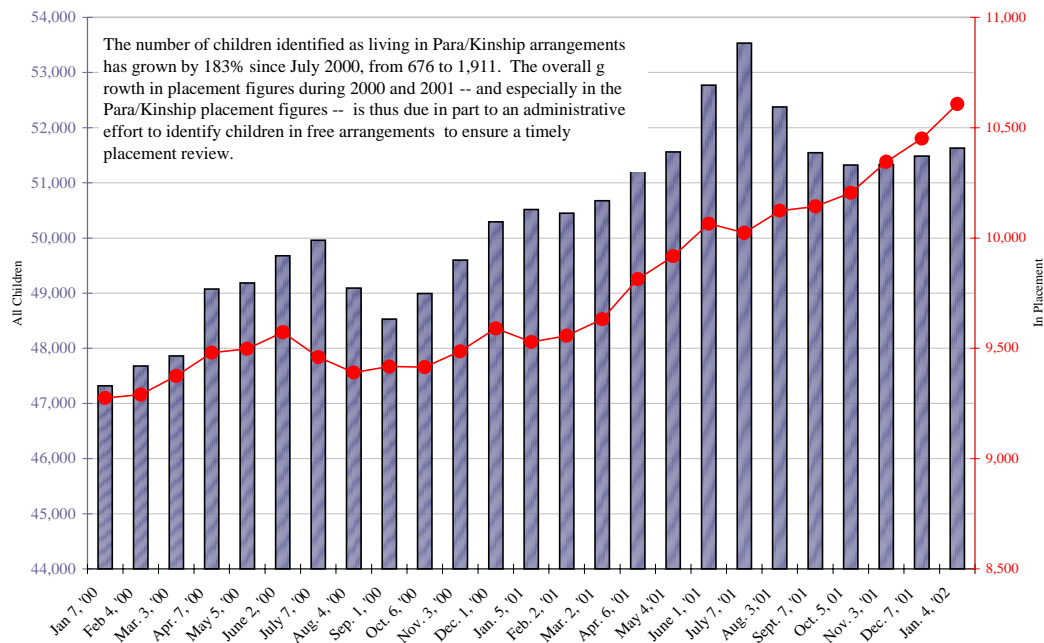
*After December 1999, many children previously coded as "other" appear in the Hispanic category due to the use of a new method of identifying children of Hispanic origin in the DYFS Service Information System.

Overview of the Child Caseload of the New Jersey Division of Youth and Family Services OUT OF HOME PLACEMENT

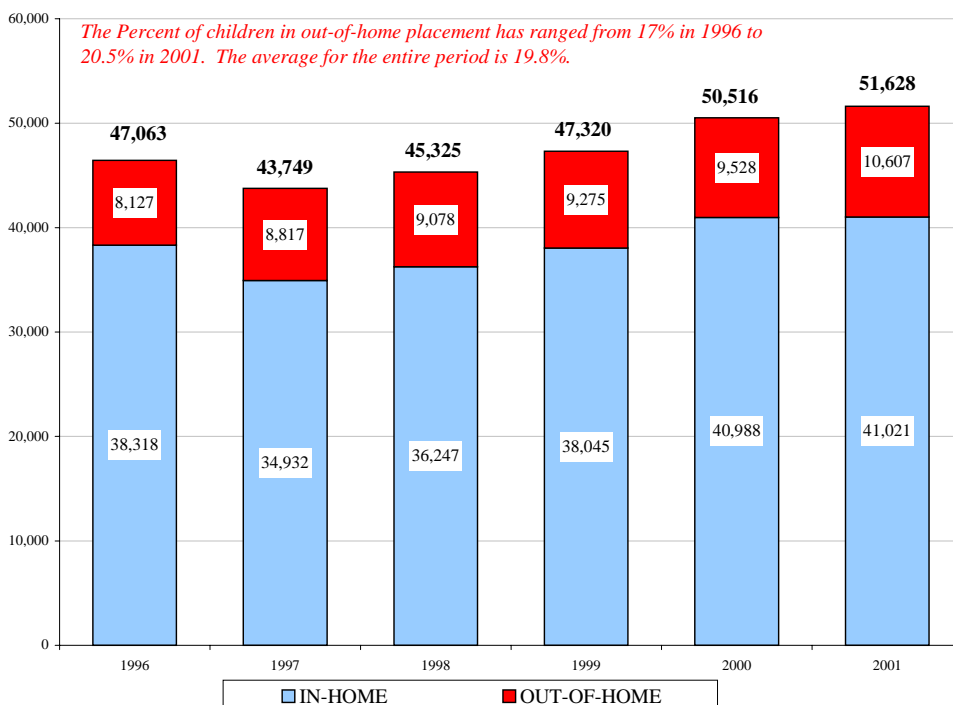


This chart shows how the child caseload and placement figures rise and fall together. Although it appears that the placement caseload has risen more dramatically in the most recent months, the growth is due to an administrative effort to correctly identify and correctly code children in certain arrangements that are not paid for by DYFS. In an effort to enhance permanency for children, new legislation recently established comprehensive kinship and relative care programs -- the Legal Guardian Subsidy Program and Relative Care Permanency Support Program. As a result, the number of children that DYFS identifies as placement cases will likely increase.

Monthly Caseload and Placement Figures
-- January 7, 2000 through January 4, 2002 --



Children Receiving Case Management Services
In-Home AND Out-of-Home Placement Services
at the End of the Calendar Year: 1996 - 2001



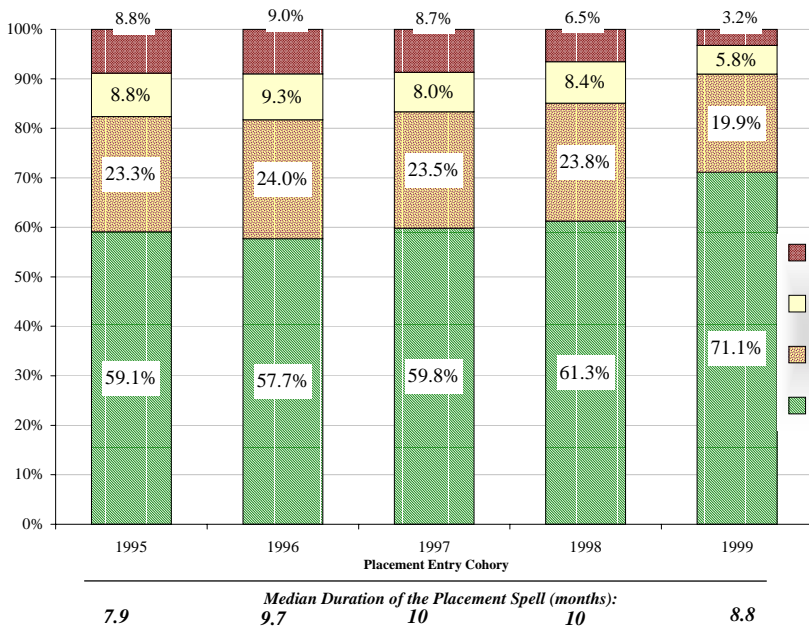
As implied in the narrative accompanying the chart above, two changes occurred which impact the figures in this chart:

- 1) Beginning August 2, 1997, the Division counted among out-of-home placements children living with relatives in free arrangements. At the end of 2001, there were 509 of these children.
- 2) Until July 2000, growth in the numbers of children in para/kinship care increased slowly and gradually. Since then the numbers have increased more dramatically. Growth in placement figures during 2000 and 2001 is thus due in part to an administrative effort to ensure that all children in placement -- including those living with relatives in free arrangements -- would be identified and flagged for a placement review within the timeframes established in policy. Since July 2000, the number of children identified to be living in para/kinship arrangements has grown from 676 to 1,911, an increase of 183%.

Overview of the Child Caseload of the New Jersey Division of Youth and Family Services



**Total Number of Placements Per Spell:
Children First Placed During the Years 1995 Through 1999**



**Median Placement Duration (Months) by
Age at First Placement**

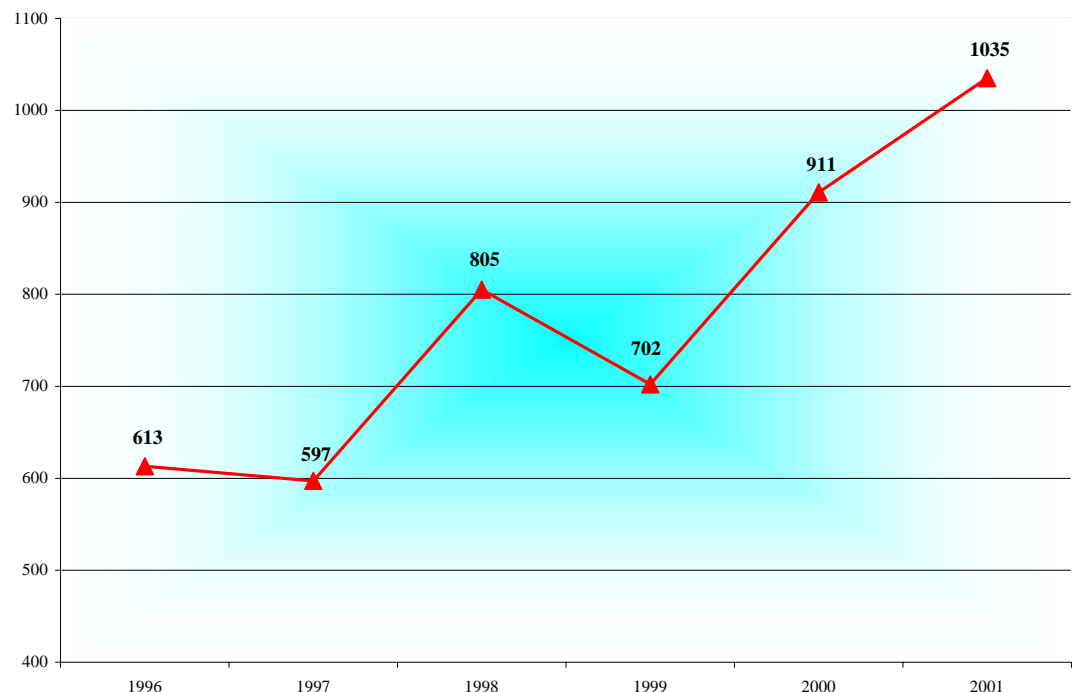
Age	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Under 1	21.7	21.6	20.4	19.5	**
1-2	12.1	14.9	10.0	13.3	9.9
3-5	9.9	12.4	12.0	12.4	**
6-8	13.3	10.4	12.1	10.1	8.9
9-11	8.0	10.6	8.1	10.2	7.2
12-14	3.0	4.0	3.7	3.7	5.0
15-17	2.7	3.6	3.5	3.8	4.4

** Too few children exited at the time the data was prepared to calculate a reliable estimate. Data for the later years is incomplete since children entering placement in these years may yet experience additional placements before their cases are closed.

The chart and table above look at the number of placements that children experienced during their first placement spell and the months duration of the spell. They compare five groups of children (cohorts) who entered care for the first time in 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, or 1999. A spell is a continuous series of placements a child experienced before returning home. The chart shows that fewer than 10% of children experienced more than two placements during this spell. The table shows that the placement spells of younger children are substantially longer than those of older children. Note that the data for 1999 in both the chart and table likely excludes some children who may not have completed the placement spell.

ADOPTION

Total Number of DYFS Finalized Adoptions -- Calendar Years 1996 Through 2001



During 2001, 1,035 children under DYFS supervision were adopted. This represented an increase of 124 children (13.6%) over the number adopted during 2000, and 332 more than the number adopted in 1999.

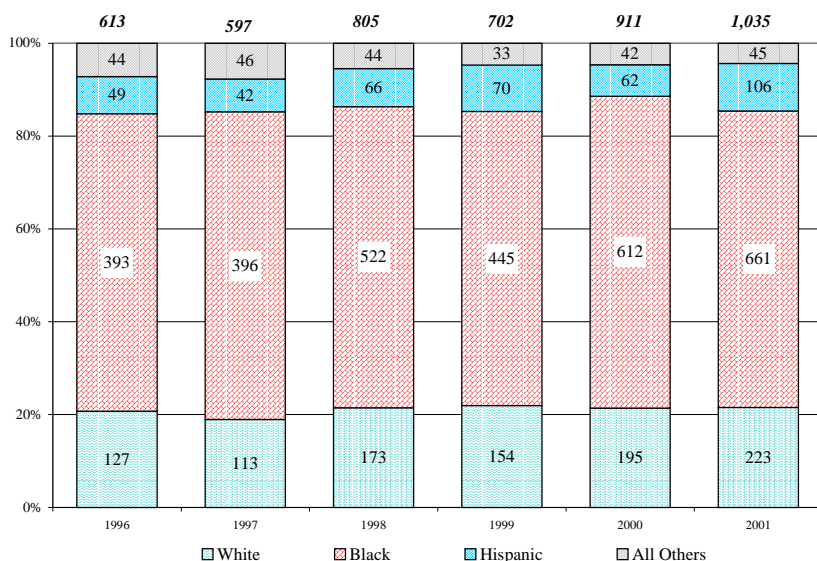


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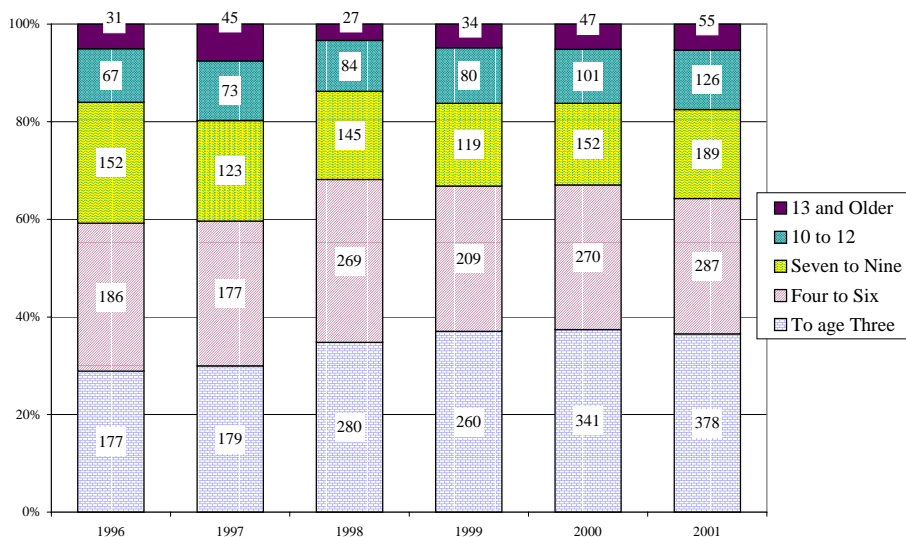
Compared with prior years, the percentages of race and age groups among adopted children have remained substantially the same. The table to the right shows percentage detail.

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
To age Three	28.9%	30.0%	34.8%	37.0%	37.4%	36.5%
Four to Six	30.3%	29.6%	33.4%	29.8%	29.6%	27.7%
Seven to Nine	24.8%	20.6%	18.0%	17.0%	16.7%	18.3%
10 to 12	10.9%	12.2%	10.4%	11.4%	11.1%	12.2%
13 and Older	5.1%	7.5%	3.4%	4.8%	5.2%	5.3%
White	20.7%	18.9%	21.5%	21.9%	21.4%	21.5%
Black	64.1%	66.3%	64.8%	63.4%	67.2%	63.9%
Hispanic	8.0%	7.0%	8.2%	10.0%	6.8%	10.2%
All Others	7.2%	7.7%	5.5%	4.7%	4.6%	4.3%

**Race/Ethnicity of Children Who Were Adopted
1996 - 2001**



**Age of Children Who Were Adopted
1996 - 2001**



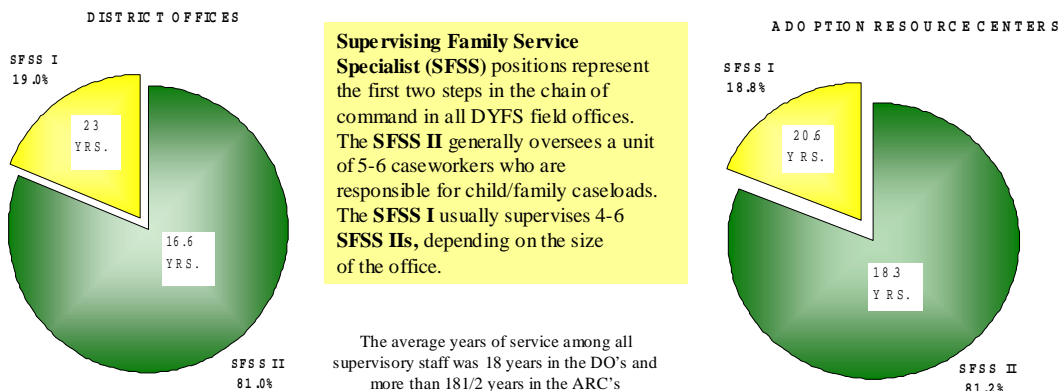


Overview of the Child Caseload of the New Jersey Division of Youth and Family Services

DISTRICT OFFICE AND ADOPTION RESOURCE CENTER STAFFING

Percent Distribution of Supervising Family Service Specialist Staff and Their Average Years of DYFS Service

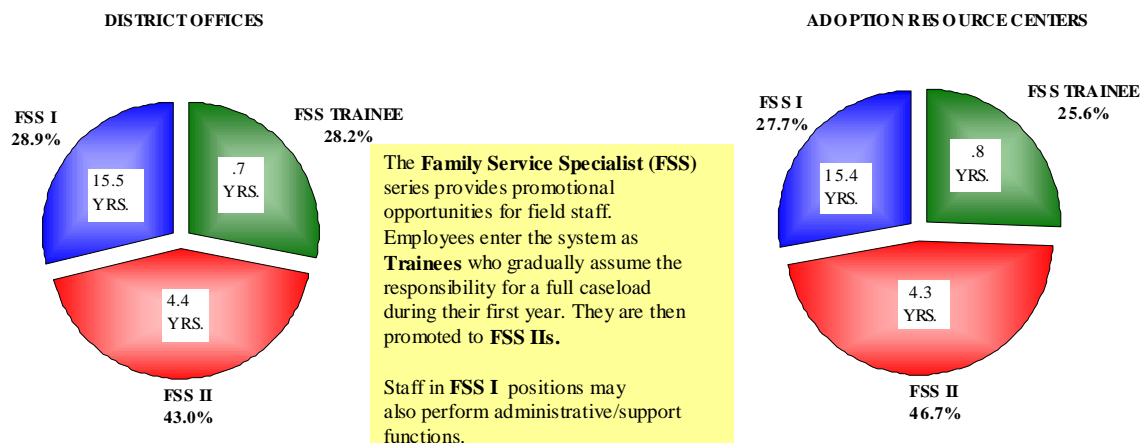
*District Offices (DO's) and Adoption Resource Centers (ARC's)**



*Based on a total of 295 District Office staff and 69 Adoption Resource Center staff.

The charts above and below show the average number of years of experience among DYFS field staff. The average number of years of experience among field staff supervisors (both SFSS I and SFSS II combined) is nearly 18 years in the District Offices (DOs) and more than 18 1/2 years in the Adoption Resource Centers (ARCs). Among all combined non-supervisory, non-trainee field staff, the average experience is nearly 8 1/2 years in the ARCs and almost nine years in the DOs. The commitment to increase caseload staff is reflected in the percentage of trainees that appear in the chart below.

Percent Distribution of Family Service Specialist Staff and Their Average Years of DYFS Service *District Offices (DO's) and Adoption Resource Centers (ARC's)**



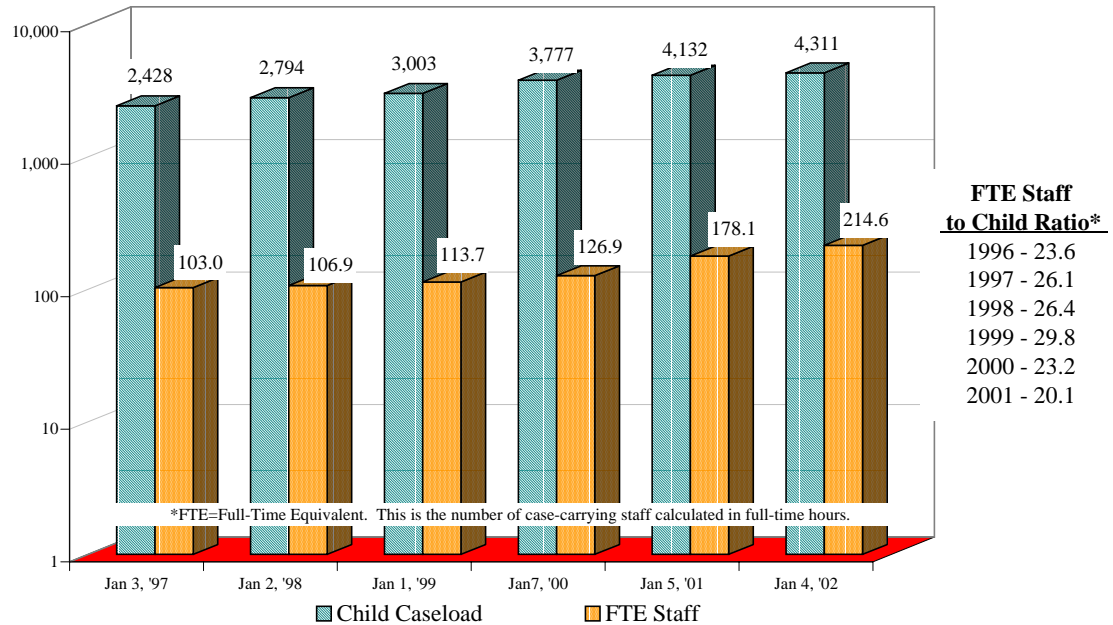
The average years of service among the combined numbers of non-FSS trainee field staff was about 8 1/2 years in the DO's and almost 9 years in the ARC's

*Based on a total of 1,331 District Office and 289 Adoption Resource Center staff.

Overview of the Child Caseload of the New Jersey Division of Youth and Family Services



Children Receiving Case Management Services and **Adoption Resource Center** Case Carrying Staff
at the End of the Calendar Year
1996 - 2001



These charts conveniently show the numbers of children receiving case management services and the number of staff managing these children at the District Offices and Adoption Resource Centers. Despite increasing caseload numbers, the influx of new staff have allow the Division to reduce the average caseload size between 2000 and 2001, to 36.3 children per worker in the District Offices and 20.1 children per worker in the Adoption Resource Centers.

Children Receiving Case Management Services and **District Office** Case Carrying Staff
at the End of the Calendar Year
1996 - 2001

